

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 02722 281550Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 OPIC-12 TRSE-00

OMB-01 DRC-01 /163 W

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R 281130Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7133

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAG: EGEN, PGOV, CG

SUBJ: REVIEW OF TAKEOVER MEASURES "COMPLETED"

REF: KINSHASA 2555 (SAYING MOBUTU WOULD PERSONALLY
REVIEW NOV. 30 MEASURES)

1. AFTER POLITICAL BUREAU MET MARCH 27 SPOKESMAN NGUZA
KARL-I-BOND ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS COMPLETED
HIS REVIEW OF TAKEOVER OF FOREIGN BUSINESSES. HE FOUND
THAT TAKEOVERS WERE GENERALLY CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO
HIS DIRECTIVES, BUT DISTRIBUTION AMONG ZAIRIANS NEEDS
CORRECTION BECAUSE SOME ZAIRIANS GOT SEVERAL BUSINESSES.
THEY WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP ALL BUT ONE. ON APRIL 15
COMPLAINTS COMMISSION (REFTEL) WILL SUBMIT ITS REPORT
TO MOBUTU ENCLOSING LIST OF QUALIFIED ZAIRIANS WHO GOT
NONE. DEPT. OF COMMERCE WILL TAKE BACK EXTRA BUSINESSES
AND REDISTRIBUTE THEM.

2. NGUZA ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT POLITICAL BUREAU HAD TAKEN
COGNIZANCE OF REPORTS IN FOREIGN PRESS THAT CERTAIN
FOREIGNERS WERE BEING FORCIBLY PREVENTED FROM LEAVING
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 02722 281550Z

ZAIRE. HE AFFIRMED THAT FOREIGNERS COULD LEAVE FREELY

"AT ANY TIME". THOSE WHO WISHED TO REMAIN TO HELP
COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT COULD COUNT ON ZAIRIAN HOSPITALITY.

3. COMMENT: WHEN DECISION WAS ANNOUNCED TO REVIEW
MANNER IN WHICH TAKEOVERS HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT (REFTEL)
THERE WAS NATURAL ASSUMPTION THAT INDIVIDUAL APPEALS
WOULD BE HEARD. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT MOBUTU HAS NO
INTENTION OF GOING THAT ROUTE. FOREIGNERS WHOSE
BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER AND WHO THOUGHT THEY
HAD UNTIL APRIL 15 TO CALL ABUSES TO PRESIDENT'S
ATTENTION WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. TO WHAT EXTENT WELL
PLACED ZAIRIANS WHO ACQUIRED SEVERAL BUSINESSES WILL
HAVE TO DISGORGE THEM REMAINS TO BE SEEN. ANNOUNCEMENT
CONCERNING FREEDOM TO DEPART SHOULD HAVE SALUTARY EFFECT (ESP-
ECIALLY ON BLEGIANS). ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY IN INTERIOR,
HAVE BEEN PREVENTING DEPARTURE OF SOME HEADS OF FAMILY
WHOSE BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER UNTIL THEY
OBTAIN CLEARANCES FROM BANK, FROM EMPLOYEES TO WHOM THEY
MIGHT OWE WAGES, AND FROM NEW OWNERS.
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